

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
UNIVERSITY PARK
LOS ANGELES 7

May 6, 1949

Dr. J. Lederberg
Assistant Professor of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

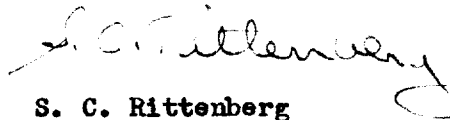
Thank you very much for your letter of April 29.
I am very glad to hear that our poona mutant has been of some
use to you and that your recombination experiments are
proceeding nicely.

We have not as yet attempted to carry out antigenic
transformations in biochemically marked (mutant) strains
although this item is definitely on our program for the future.
When we are ready for this phase of the work, I will be very
happy to take advantage of your kind offer to check the
nutritional requirements of our derived strains, if any, and
in addition hope to be able to call on you for some of your
multiple mutants. I believe, as you do, that we are dealing
with two entirely distinct phenomena, and it would be worthwhile
to show this as soon as possible.

Our own work has not shown any progress for a
considerable period of time, in fact, we have rapidly been
going backwards. Any recitation of our trials and tribulations
would sound like the 11:30 soap opera on any radio station.
We have had trouble with our sera, our cultures, and our phage
and on the last attempts have been unable to duplicate our
initial results even though the technics were apparently the
same. It might be that we are overlooking some factor or factors
of importance that were present in our few successful experiments.
Whatever the situation, we do not feel justified in publishing
our findings until we can repeat them.

I am sorry to say that I will not be attending the
S. A. B. meeting in Cincinnati. I had been looking forward to
meeting you and discussing some of these problems with you.

Sincerely yours,


S. C. Rittenberg

SCR:lj1